

**Sacramento County  
Department of Health Services  
Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Advisory Board**



**Meeting Minutes**

September 9, 2025  
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

**Zoom Meeting:** <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1609470501?pwd=hWFbJk02hhpzTo0wgKApYNNjfrF59n.1>

**Facilitator:** Effie Ruggles

**Scribe:** Nkechi Michel

**Meeting Attendees:**

- Effie Ruggles
- Nkechi Michel
- Melody Law
- Rebecca Lewis
- Christina Newport
- Donyale Abe
- Leesa Hooks
- Daphne Echols
- Patsy Jimenez Arellano
- Danielle Jackson
- Tara Taylor
- Emely Arianza
- Melissa Herrera
- Cristina Pena
- Suzanne Eidson- Ton
- Ithiopia McKinney
- Robert Hickman
- Robin Blanks-Guster
- Alexis Ousley
- Amanda Lynch
- Tosha Ulicni
- Kimberly Grimes
- Fienishia Wash

Welcome and Introductions	The meeting was called to order at 8:40am by Effie Ruggles.
Agenda and Minutes	Robin Guster- Banks motioned to approve the minutes with one correction and Patsy Jimenez Arellano seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

Public Health Officer's Report: Presented by Dr. Melody Law, Deputy Health Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rise in COVID cases but lower than July and August</li> <li>• Wastewater level presented in the same way</li> <li>• Yolo County sent out a press release recommending masking in their region.</li> <li>• XFG strain Omicron variant- same as second wave strain during height of COVID pandemic</li> <li>• 1 positive human case in West Nile Virus and Dengue-mosquito samples are tested. Season is from Sept-Dec.</li> <li>• 1 plague case in El Dorado County</li> <li>• Hoping for updated COVID guidance from West Coast Health Alliance</li> <li>• Moving forward with mask mandate for healthcare providers during flu season starting Oct 1, 2025</li> <li>• Budget cuts- several positions lost in Public Health</li> </ul>
MCAH Updates: Presented by Leesa Hooks, MCAH Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDPH has issued a white paper called Third Places on ACEs-which includes social determinants of health</li> <li>• CDPH released Firearms prevention roadmap for harm reduction</li> <li>• Three of five funding applications for funding agreements (AFA) been approved- BIH, MCAH, PEI. CHVP still pending</li> <li>• GMC transportation training has been scheduled for all. It will be held tomorrow. Registration information is in the chat. Feel free to share and attend!</li> <li>• CDPH has released data, noting an increase in gestational diabetes incidence. A roundtable trainings on GDM is on the horizon. More info to come.</li> <li>• Perinatal substance use RT training is upcoming in November.</li> <li>• County Oral Health on demand trainings upcoming- Bumps and Bicuspid (prenatal focus), and provider training. There is a provider toolkit available as well</li> <li>• The county Lead Program is hosting several provider-focused "Coffee Chats" to increase the prevalence of lead screening for our pediatric populations.</li> </ul>
Community Nursing: Daphne Echols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing to grow and expand and continues to be very impactful</li> <li>• Served 759 families</li> <li>• Conducted 1,173 home visits</li> <li>• There is a decrease in nursing staff</li> </ul>
Presenters: Cristina Pena- Kaiser Permanente	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cristina Pena presented programs and services available at Kaiser Permanente for pregnant and perinatal populations. Mission: Our mission is to improve the quality and equity of healthcare delivery for California's most vulnerable infants and their families.</li> </ul>

<p>Nurse-Family Partnership Updates Staffing, Funding, Referrals, Community Collaboration/Support, Advocacy, and Benchmarks- Tosha Ulicni/Fay Bursch</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NFP referrals remain steady and consistent</li> <li>• Serving 215 families</li> <li>• One nurse left the program and one nurse is going on leave January 2026-2026- one nurse is currently on parental leave and two more nurses are planning on going on parental leave in January 2026.</li> <li>• Team continues to engage in Intimate Partner Violence training series</li> <li>• Two nurses completed 9-month program to become Lactation Counselors</li> <li>• Working closely with sexual health Unit to combat congenital syphilis outbreaks in the community</li> <li>• WIC Collaboration remains including referrals to lactation services including joint home visits</li> <li>• Current MOU with Sacramento Diaper Bank</li> <li>• Exploring new partnership opportunities</li> <li>• NFPx is live and underway-expanding services to the community. Will share new materials once they become available</li> <li>• Surpassed goal of increasing pregnancy retention by 50%</li> <li>• New goal is to boost toddler phase retention</li> <li>• Successful Site visit from NFP service office. Great way to reflect on program progress</li> <li>• Over 2,597 home visits completed</li> </ul>
<p>Board Member Updates/Announcements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRP WIC is hiring a Breastfeeding Liaison. Posting closing this Friday</li> <li>• Virtual training for healthcare providers- September 30<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Healthy beginning virtual series about alcohol, opiates and other drugs starting tomorrow throughout the fall</li> <li>• Robert Hickman shared</li> <li>• Patsy Jimenez highlighted the need to continue to support communities and families as they navigate accessing services in a difficult political climate.</li> <li>• Community Nursing has a Spanish speaking nurse that addresses community concerns regarding linkage to care. There is also a Dari and Farsi speaking nurse</li> <li>• Rob Hickman has championed for healthcare professionals to take perinatal mental health trainings- he is asking for letters of support to increase awareness</li> </ul>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am by Effie Ruggles.</p>